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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 29 | Min 18 | Humidity 46% Misty morning and partly cloudy Sensex 58,788 | Nifty 17,560 | Gold 49,200 | Silver 65,600 | Dollar 74.86 | Euro 85.22 | GBP 101.44

CITY / PAGE 2

WHEN IT COMES TO MASKS, WE'RE GOOD AT REUSE, REDUCE

CITY / PAGE 4

SATELLITE RING ROAD PROJECT READY TO GET SET, GO

Kalyanis that help groundwater recharge in the age of borewells are gradually falling into ruin — abandoned, altered, covered by slabs

A STEP BACK IN TIME

INTACH Bengaluru documenting temple tanks

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Kalyanis or temple tanks have been a prominent fixture of temple premises for ages — used for Ganesha idol immersion, holy baths or rituals.

The tanks double up as water recharging structures, designed in a way to store water and facilitate water percolation down beneath, recharging the groundwater table.

There were many Kalyanis in Bengaluru, too. Many dried up thanks to borewells, low rainfall and other factors. At present, many Kalyanis have disappeared as they are being covered with stone slabs.

Experts said besides the religious importance, there is the definitive ecological aspect: covering Kalyanis is affecting the groundwater table. With rampant borewell digging, rainwater harvesting assumes critical focus; but that is not happening. Even open wells are being covered up. Activists demanded the authorities concerned should inspect all Kalyanis and remove the slabs soon.

"It's part of Hindu culture to take a dip or wash hands and feet in the Kalyani before entering the temple; but there are no Kalyanis left now," said Arun Prasad, a social activist.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

A funtional Kalyani in Ulsoor (above) and one covered in stone slabs in Sampangiram Nagar (inset)

> "Govt should form teams, obtain a list of all Kalyanis, rejuvenate these structures like they do for lakes
>
> — Arun Prasad, activist

Why are BMTC buses catching fire?

Two BMTC buses catch fire in a span of 10 days

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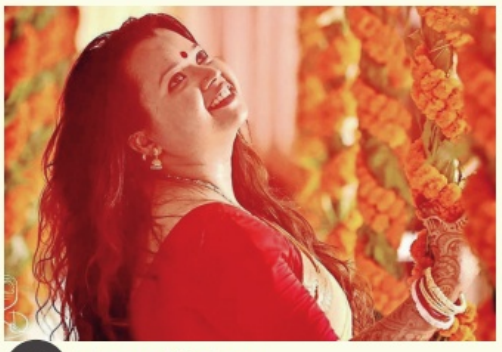
Consecutive incidents of BMTC buses catching fire have raised eyebrows: is public transport safe in Bengaluru?

Two buses caught fire roughly 10 days apart. No one was injured as the passengers and staff escaped unscathed. Both buses were manufactured by Ashok Leyland.

The first incident occurred on January 21 in a bus from Deepanjalinagar depot travelling from Kempegowda Bus Station to Hosakerehalli. The bus carrying 25 passengers caught fire at Makkalakoota signal near Chamarajpet. The second incident took place on February 1, in a bus from Anjanapura depot travelling from Kempegowda Bus Station to Banashankari, near Nanda Talkies, close to South End Circle. This one was also carrying 25 passengers, who managed to escape without injuries. Soon after, a team led by BMTC chief mechanical engineer was directed to enquire and submit a detailed report. BMTC officials, meanwhile, said it was difficult to ascertain the exact cause.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

3 THINGS TO DO



01 Teen Kahon

This Sunday, RS Connect brings to you 'Teen Kahon - stories of the margins', a storytelling performance by Shatarupa Bhattacharyya which delves into Bangla literary history to tell three iconic stories by Saratchandra Chattopadhyay and Mahasweta Devi, in their English translation. The stories relate the lived experience of the margins. They show how the canonical authors of Bangla literature have deployed their storytelling skills to engage with issues of contemporary concern such as caste, class, gender, and religion, showing a harsh mirror to society and the many ways in which it discriminates and marginalises. Come on over to what will be a very interesting discussion! **Where: Ranga Shankara; When: Feb 6, 5:30pm Entry: Free**

02 Watch Tughlaq

Ranga Shankara presents Tughlaq, a play set during the reign of Muhammad Bin Tughlaq, 14th century Turko-Indian ruler, the play is both a historical play as well as a commentary on the contemporary politics. Tughlaq is a play about a ruler with extreme passion, idealism, and big dreams. His virtues become his vices which spirals him down to his tragedy. Come witness the past to understand the present better. **Where: Ranga Shankara; When: Feb 4, 7:30 pm Entry: Free**

03 Bill to Biden

If cartoons are your way to de-stress, check out Indian Institute of Cartoonists's showcase: America in cartoons, from Bill to Biden, an exhibition of cartoons and caricatures by New York-based cartoonist Shreyas Navare. The exhibition comprises 101 cartoons and caricatures drawn spanning five US Presidents from 1998 to 2022. This exhibition also includes artworks from Shreyas Navare's travels across various US states for his coverage of the 2012 and 2016 US Presidential Elections through the eyes of a cartoonist. **Where: Indian Cartoon Gallery, Craig Park Layout; When: Till February 12**

A dry spell for mask biz

Easy availability, affordability, and reusability has caused sales to drop

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A streetside shop sells N95 masks for as low as Rs 20; sales are down in most stores, say traders

Mask sales are on the decline in the city and shopkeepers seem to think that the numbers are not going to pick up anymore even during the third wave.

"We are in the middle of the third wave and yet signages showing N95 masks for Rs 20 are still prominent now. This is a huge contrast to the first wave when people had to depend on e-commerce platforms for N-95 masks, which cost over Rs 100 per piece. "There is a very low demand now. We are selling only 200-300 pieces a month. However, the price reduction can be attributed to more companies manufacturing masks," said a pharmacist.

Another pharmacist noted that the reusability of these masks is also a reason for drop in price. "People have already purchased masks and they are reusing them. Some people are also washing cloth masks and reusing them. Currently, we are selling only 50-60 masks a day and sales have dropped by half. Due to their high affordability now, people are choosing N-95 masks over surgical masks," he said.

Shopkeepers are only purchasing masks now as per demand to avoid losses. They also observed that the prices have remained stable since the second wave.

"There is no big demand for masks now. We are selling 100-200 units per pharmacy store on average. During the first wave, there was a shortage due to shopkeepers and mask producers being new to the scenario. Now, a lot of companies are manufacturing masks in India and this has helped a lot in the stabilisation of the prices," said B Thirunavukkarasu, Admin Secretary, The Bangalore District Chemists and Druggists Association.

> **"There is no big demand for masks now. We're selling 100 - 200 units per pharmacy store** – B Thirunavukkarasu, Admin Secretary, The Bangalore District Chemists and Druggists Association

Doctors say that masks should not be used for over two-three days and should be kept or disposed of in paper bags.

"If you are not a health worker and you are just using it while stepping out, it's advised to use it only for two-three days. If you only use it for a day, you can keep it in a paper bag and use it up to five times. People are now washing their masks and this is not advisable. Washing can ruin the pores and the static charge on the masks that prevent the virus from entering," said Dr Vivek Anand Padegal, Director, Pulmonology, Fortis Hospitals, Bannerghatta Road.

"Although cloth masks are thick and can be washed regularly, wearing a surgical 3-layered mask offers more protection compared to cloth masks, especially in a crowded place. The CDC USA recommends not to reuse surgical masks explaining that it is intended for single use only.

"Even though N-95 and KN-95 masks were created for a single-use purpose in the initial times, guidance from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention said that people can use the mask up to five times." said Dr Sachin Kumar, Senior Consultant, Pulmonology and Critical Care Medicine, Sakra World Hospital.

RT-PCR tests are a nuisance, say flyers

Air passengers are disgruntled over having to pay exorbitant amounts for testing, every time

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The tests are time-consuming & glitches often take place according to flyers

Despite the number of cases reducing in the city, airlines are showing no signs of taking down the RT-PCR test rules and for frequent flyers, this has become a hindrance as well as a financial burden.

Geetha Pillai, a resident of Kirloskar Layout, said: "I often have to travel to Kerala because of work. RT-PCR-testing has become a hassle. It has become extremely expensive as well. I am now considering taking a bus or commuting through my car. It will save money as well as the hassle."

At Kempegowda International Airport (KIA), personnel say that it takes almost one to one and a half hours for the results to arrive. However, the flyers say that they had to wait for as long as two to three hours.

Jithin Raj, a resident of HSR layout, said, "I came back from Chennai and underwent the RT-PCR test. They said that it would take one hour for the report to arrive. However, I had to wait for two and a half hours. Moreover, they got my report mixed up with someone else. Another half an hour went behind resolving that."

The travel agencies say that uninterested flyers have affected their business as well. Previously they used to get requests for booking flights. However, due to the mandatory RT-PCR tests, their bookings have reduced significantly.

K Radhakrishna, President, Karnataka travel association said: "This rule has disturbed the travellers. They do not want to travel by flight anymore. Already the travel business was hampered during the first and the second wave of covid.

Now, finally, when people started traveling again, this RT-PCR-testing is causing problems. The bookings we used to get for flight reservations have reduced by approximately 40-45 per cent."

The flyers say that they would be more comfortable taking the rapid antigen test as it is pocket-friendly and also takes less time. However, the airport authorities insist that they will consider only the result for the RT-PCR test.

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INNOCEAN-002/22

One road to ring them all

It's the first bypass around B'luru that will span across another state

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The Satellite Ring Road will connect Dobbaspet (Tumakuru Road) to Doddaballapur (Hindupur Road)

Finally, big news for Bengaluru as the much-delayed Satellite Ring Road (STRR) project is set to take off. This project is crucial in driving away heavy traffic from entering the city, while this road will help people travel from one destination to another.

The road is also expected to groom the city with better infrastructure. As the peripheral ring road is still limping in 'infancy', work is being taken up on the other ring road. This four-laned tolled STRR is set to connect the towns around Bengaluru city. Interestingly, the ring road will also connect the Hosur region of Tamil Nadu, being the first bypass around Bengaluru that will span across another state.

The NHAI is executing this ring road under the Bharatmala project and connects Dobbaspet (Tumakuru Road) to Doddaballapur (Hindupur Road) and passes Devanahalli (Hyderabad Road), Hosakote (Kolar Road), Hosur (Chennai Road), Anekal (Thali Road), Kanakapura (Kollegal Road), Ramanagar (Mysore Road) and Magadi (Kunigal Road). The total length of the ring road is about 281 km (as against 116 km identified for peripheral ring road and 60 km of the existing outer ring road) in Karnataka and 45 km in Tamil Nadu.

Currently, the ORR is unable to carry a high vehicular density. The average density at ORR is almost double at junctions like Hebbal, KR Puram and Goraguntepalya.

As per the latest update, the work on two packages --Dobbaspet-Doddaballapur and Hoskote Road -- is going on. Though the work started years ago, it was delayed due to multiple reasons including covid.

> **"As Bengaluru and Hosur have become a continuous urban agglomeration, we decided to add Hosur in the project**
>
> – Senior official, National Highway Authority of India

Currently, 20 per cent of the work is completed. The NHAI plans to award bids to Hoskote to Tamil Nadu border stretch in March next year along with highway construction in the stretch. "We have recently issued a preliminary notification that has five packages and it may happen in June next year," an official said.

A senior NHAI official told Bangalore Mirror, "A few years ago, we had taken up the bypass project from Tumakuru Road to Hyderabad Road via Dobbaspet, Doddaballapur and Devanahalli. However, the project had to be stalled as the concessionaire didn't speed up the work. The project was re-awarded and then the covid outbreak halted the project. Hence, we decided to connect this road across the city and convert it as a satellite ring road. Initially, there were confusions over whether to include Hosur or not."

However, he added, "As Bengaluru and Hosur have become a continuous urban agglomeration, we decided to connect Hosur. Currently, the traffic density between Electronics City (NICE road junction) and Hosur is one of the highest. With the opening of the STRR, vehicles can avoid the entire Hosur city to reach or leave Bengaluru."

A traffic expert said that cities like Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Delhi need as many ring roads as possible. Bengaluru is an outwardly and radially grown city and requires more roads. For example, on NICE Road, travel time between Tumkur Road and Hosur Road is less than an hour and travelling on city's arterial road from Tumakuru to Hosur Road stretches between the NICE Road junctions may take three to four hours. Hence, STRR will be a welcome relief, he said.

ACB chargesheets Sasikala, 5 others

The Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) has filed a chargesheet in a case relating to alleged irregularities and preferential treatment provided to V K Sasikala, the close aide of former Tamil Nadu chief minister J Jayalalithaa, at the Central Prison here.

The ACB informed the Karnataka High Court that a chargesheet has been filed against six people, including two senior prison officials and Sasikala.

Sasikala, who was convicted in the multi-crore disproportionate assets case, had served four years imprisonment at the Parappana Agrahara Central Prison here. She was released from the jail in January 2021.

The Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi and Justice Suraj Govindaraj, which was hearing a PIL filed by K S Gita, a Chennai-based social worker and educationist on

Jayalalithaa aide Sasikala was convicted in a multi-crore disproportionate assets case

Wednesday, was informed that the chargesheet was filed on January 7, 2022 after the state government accorded sanction on December 30, 2021, for prosecution of two prison officials.

The petitioner had claimed that despite a report submitted by retired IAS officer Vinay Kumar, indicating that preferential treatment was given to Sasikala inside the prison, the ACB had not completed the investigation.

The two officials who have been named as accused one and two in the chargesheet are Krishna Kumar, who was the Chief Superintendent and Anitha, the Superintendent of the Central prison at Parappana Agrahara when the illegal facilities and preferential treatment were allegedly provided to Sasikala and her sister-in-law Ilavarasi, who was also serving a sentence in the prison.

Sasikala and Ilavarasi have also been named as accused in the chargesheet.

The court had earlier directed the government to take a decision on the sanction request forwarded to it by the ACB on July 15 last year. **–PTI**

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Shoddy work
Vijayanagar

The service road in Vijayanagar has to be restored properly, as in its current state, it causes a lot of dust to emanate. The rough stretch is an inconvenience to both pedestrians and motorists.

Stench on wheels
Kathriguppe

The BBMP garbage collection vehicle usually parked on Kathriguppe Main Road causes trouble to passersby . It should be relocated to a more appropriate place.

Broken path
RR Nagar

A pavement near RR Nagar arch bus stop is broken as the top layer has worn out. It is used by bus and auto passengers to wait for the vehicles. It should be fixed as early as possible.

Doubly fine: Revenue from penalties for traffic violations has doubled

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The revenue collected for violation of Motor Vehicles (MV) Rules 2021 has almost doubled in the State. According to latest statistics, Rs 3, 87,000 was collected as fines between January 1 and December 31, 2020. The fine collection has increased to Rs 9,32,500 in 2021 (January 1 to December 31).

Replying to a Rajya Sabha question, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said that Rs 15,64,57,21,915 was collected as fine in 2020. This increased to Rs 21,04,29,52,569. Statistics from the Union Government show that the road accidents have decreased in 2020 as compared to previous years. In 2018, the country witnessed 4,67,044 accidents while it decreased to 4,49,002 in 2019 and 3,66,138 in 2020.

Gadkari said, "Based on the FIR data received from various states and union territories, yearly analysis is done at the Transport Research Wing of this Ministry. As per analysis of the reasons for road accidents, the accidents mainly occur due to multiple causes such as speeding, use of mobile phone, drunken driving/consumption of alcohol/drugs, overloaded vehicle, vehicular condition, poor light

condition, jumping red light, overtaking, neglect of civic bodies, weather condition, fault of driver, driving on wrong side, defect in road condition, defect in condition of motor vehicle, fault of cyclist and fault of pedestrian etc. Based upon the various studies the Ministry has formulated a multi-pronged strategy to address the issue of road safety."

Increase in pedestrian deaths

Shockingly, there is an increase in pedestrian deaths in the country. In 2018, 14.96 per cent was the share of pedestrians killed in the total road accidents. The share went up to 17.11 per cent in 2019 and 17.83 per cent in 2020. This is particularly concerning as that was the year when covid first struck the country and there were series of lockdowns with hardly any traffic anywhere.

Gadkari said, "No study has been conducted on why pedestrian deaths happen. However, such deaths occur due to pedestrians not following norms laid down for walking along roads or trying to cross roads during traffic.

Accidents also occur due to speeding vehicles. A number of steps have been taken to prevent pedestrians' death including provision of median railing of adequate height to discourage the pedestrian from crossing the road at the vulnerable locations in the urban areas."

App loan sharks launch a vulgar attack on man

Techie's Aadhaar, PAN cards tampered with and sent out to his family and friends in bid to extort him for small loan he never availed of

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Next time, you apply for a loan, make sure to steer clear from mobile apps. A 29-year-old software engineer, the founder of a tech start-up in Yelahanka, had to go through the most vile harassment for a loan of Rs 3,800 that he claims he had not even availed of from a loan app.

Arjun told Bangalore Mirror he had applied for a car loan online from a bank and finance offering website in November. For this he had uploaded his Aadhaar and PAN cards online.

"In December last year, my loan for Rs 8.10 lakh got approved, but as I needed funds for my start-up, I dropped the car plan and cancelled all the loan applications," Arjun said.

In the first week of January, Arjun received a call and subsequent messages from a person claiming to be a recovery agent who demanded that he pay the Rs 3,800 he had taken as loan from an online app through his phone.

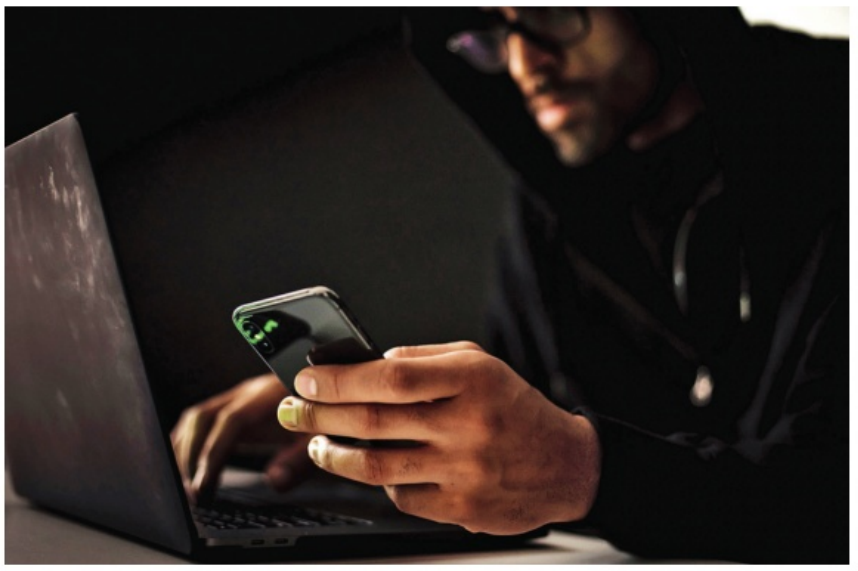
Arjun replied that he had not availed of any loans and started ignoring the calls. The agent is said to have sent him messages on his Whatsapp number.

"The first five messages were polite. But when I made it clear I won't be paying, the sender started texting abusive messages in Hindi.

The person threatened to share my Aadhaar and PAN card photoshopped with abusive captions to all of my contacts including my family members, relatives and friends," Arjun said.

Shockingly, the person carried out the threats. The messages were sent out to his family and friends, and they called him up to alert him about the vulgar messages. "They had forwarded pictures of my documents, photoshopped with captions stating that I was a rapist, a thief and a loan defaulter and anyone who finds me in public should hand me over to the police and so on," Arjun said.

Arjun said he would also get calls during work hours. The harassment was so much that Arjun decided to pay some



The victim says the criminals use leaked data that they get access to when you download a mobile application

> **"These loan apps do not allow you to proceed to the next step if you choose not to allow them access to contacts and media access**
>
> – Arjun, victim of loan fraud

money. When he looked in his old messages, he realised that it had all begun from a loan app that he had downloaded earlier, but never used. Arjun spoke to the person who said with Rs 1,700, the case would be closed. Arjun did so, but the harassment did not stop.

'Too small' an amount

Arjun approached the Yelahanka police and narrated his ordeal to them, but they counselled him that there were other cases of cyber cons running into lakhs and crores so this was nothing. "They just told me to block the phone number and ignore them," Arjun said.

But Arjun spoke to people about it and found that one of his acquaintances too was a victim of such a crime, but he hadn't spoken up because of the stigma involved. His friend had downloaded an app where he was offered a loan of Rs 2,300 and he had to pay up Rs 5,000 in seven days and when he failed, he was harassed on his online space where his photoshopped documents filled with abuses and nudity were shared with his family and peers online.

"When I checked my friend's phone, I was shocked to see his Aadhaar card and PAN card too had been photoshopped in the same manner as mine was. These people operate with leaked data which they get access to when you download a mobile application. If you choose not to allow access to contacts and media access, you cannot proceed to the next step," Arjun explained.

He believes this is an organised crime syndicate which procures confidential information about random people online and then calls them, and/or sends text and Whatsapp messages to extort money from them.

Arjun has now uninstalled the app and blocked all the harassing callers, and expects that the harassment will stop soon.

Miffed with KFCC, director, 'goons' try to vandalise office

The president of Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce (KFCC) has filed a complaint against a Sandalwood film director for allegedly barging into their office along with eight goons in an attempt to vandalise the property.

High Grounds police have registered a case against the director JJ Srinivas booking him under various sections of IPC including 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 324 (voluntarily causing hurt by weapons or means), 342 (wrongful confinement) 448 (trespass) and others. DR Jairaj, 71, president of KFCC said that Srinivas, who was a member of the association, was suspended and removed from the association after he tried to defame the members.

"Srinivas had been making unnecessary allegations against the members and was trying to defame the association. We had issued a notice to him for his behaviour but he did not abide by it. After more such incidents, we suspended him and removed him from the association as disciplinary action. This seems to have irked him. He went to our office along with eight goons and when the security guards stopped him, they assaulted the guards," said Jairaj.

According to Jairaj, Srinivas said he was angry with the association for removing him and wanted to vandalise the office. "I was at home when the incident took place. When the guards called me about this, I immediately alerted the police who rushed to the spot and made them disperse from there.

After speaking to other members, we went ahead to get the FIR registered against him," he said.A senior officer said that the incident took place on January 10 and they had attended to the issue that day. "They had given us a petition initially and later through court, they got the FIR registered. We have taken up the case and are investigating. We are yet to arrest him," he said. **— Pragna L Krupa**

Licence mandatory to hold protest marches in city

Following the state gazette notification, city police commissioner Kamal Pant has directed the officials to enforce the newly enacted, Licensing and Regulation of Protests, Demonstrations and Protest Marches (Bengaluru city) Order, 2021.

Under this order, no protests, demonstrations, dharnas or protest marches shall be allowed in Bengaluru without obtaining a licence. The order was brought in force after the High Court of Karnataka initiated a suo moto Writ Petition (WP 5781/2021) with regard to certain news items stating that large scale protests and processions held in the heart of Bengaluru in an unorganised manner, adversely affect traffic movement, which cause huge vehicular congestion. The High Court directed the State Government to evolve a proper mechanism for regulation of processions and protests.

The Licensing Authority shall approve the number of persons for holding protest at Freedom Park, depending on type of programme, duration and available capacity at the identified venue in the city, Freedom Park. Depending on the situation, the Commissioner of Police may also designate any other suitable place. **—BMB**

Ather, Escoms ink charging station MoU

Bengaluru-based electric vehicle company Ather Energy will set up 1,000 fast charging stations for electric two-wheelers across Karnataka.

The company signed MoUs with the state-owned electric supply companies (Escoms) in Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai's presence in Bengaluru on Thursday.

"K'taka is committed to doing whatever it takes to enable ease of doing business especially in the sector of clean & sustainable energy. We look forward to the participation of young & dynamic industry leaders," the chief minister tweeted.

"We want to keep charging free of cost for people to charge their EVs at least for the first one or two years. This will help drive more EV adoption. We want to lead the EV ecosystem to grow," Ather Energy co-founder Tarun Mehta told ET. He was hopeful of identifying some locations in Bengaluru this month itself.

— ET Online

Kudos Gadag on vax feat

Karnataka Health Minister K Sudhakar on Thursday said Gadag became the first district in the state to achieve 100 per cent first dose COVID-19 vaccination coverage among 15-17 year age group.

He noted that over all first dose vaccination coverage among this age group in the state is 72 per cent.

"Gadag becomes the first district in Karnataka to achieve 100 per cent FIRST dose coverage among 15-17 year children. Overall first dose coverage among children in Karnataka is 72 per cent," Sudhakar said in a tweet. **—Agencies**

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I, SHAHZIYA BEGUM R/at #8/63,4th Crs, 5th Main, Vasantappa Block, Ganganagar, RT Nagar Post, Bangalore–32. I, Have changed my name to SHAZIYA BEGUM, W/o. Mohammed Yousuff, Vide Affidavit Dated: 19/11/2021 sworn before Notary Prakasha C, Advocate, Bangalore

I PRIYANKA BASAK D/o. PRASANTA KUMAR BASAK NO C3, 4th FLOOR, SAKTHI ASHRAYA APARTMENT, 6TH 'G' CROSS, C V RAMAN NAGAR POST, BANGALORE-560093, has changed my name from PRIYANKA MAZUMDAR to PRIYANKA BASAK for all future purposes.

I, SHILPA J w/o Manish Jain, residing at No. 53, Khadhi Commission, HBCS Near Ganesha Temple, Kathariguppe Main Road, BSK 3rd Stage, Bangalore-560085, have changed my name to SHILPA, vide affidavit dated 01.02.2022, sworn before notary K.S Chandrashekar, Bangalore.

I, FEROZ PASHA IQBAL, R/at #26/27,1st Main,6th Cross, Manjunath Layout, Thanisandra Main Road Bangalore–77 I, Have changed my name to MOHAMMED FAIROZ PASHA Vide Affidavit Dated: 01/12/2021 Sworn before Notary: R. Basavaraja Advocate Bangalore.

I, SEEMA AMEENA BEGUM, R/at #26/27,1st Main, 6th cross, Manjunath Layout, Thanisandra Main Road, Bangalore–77. I, Have changed my name to SEEMA BEGUM, Vide Affidavit Dated: 01/12/2021 Sworn before Notary R. Basavaraja Advocate Bangalore

I Munirajappa M S/O, Madras Muniyappa R/o #696/27,ward No.150,sarjapura Main Road,kaikondrahalli,bangalore -560035 have changed my name to Muniraju for all purposes.

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I Chethan Simha Calla Aswathnarayan S/O, Ashwathnarayan Challa Lakshminarayan R/o No 266 5th B Main Remco Layout Vijayanagar Bangalore 560040 have changed my name to Chethan Simha Challa Ashwathnarayan

I Purushotham Lokesh R/a 87, 1st A Cross, Cholurupalya, Magadi road, Bengaluru 560023. I have changed my name from Pruthvik to PURUSHOTHAM LOKESH. Vide affidavite dt : 02/02/2022. Sworn before notary : S. Nagaraja

I, Umachalam K.S W/o Nagraj Sharma. R/o No 2431,3rd Floor, 3rd Block, Doddabasthi Main Road, Sir.M.V. Layout, Ullalu Upanagara, B'luru-560056 have changed my name to Uma Sharma for all purposes

I, Suhail Syed R/o Fayazabad layout, J.P Nagar Bengaluru Karnataka 560078 Have changed my name from Suhail to Suhail Syed for all future purposes.

I, Vishwanathan Ramachandran Iyer, aged 33 years, S/o Ramachandran Rajagopal Iyer, R/o B 1304, Durga Petals Apartments, Outer Ring Road, Doddanekundi, Bengaluru - 560037, have changed my name to Vishwanathan Iyer for all future purposes

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Cancer becomes rising concern

Study reveals that state's cases set to see a rise by over 11% by 2025

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The number of cancer cases have been on the rise; lifestyle changes, smoking and other factors have led to the increase in the cancer burden. As per a study, Karnataka's cancer burden is set to see a rise by over 11 per cent by 2025. Females will see an increase at 11.6 per cent, while men will see an increase of 11.4 per cent.

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and National Centre for Disease Informatics & Research (NCDIR), Bengaluru, released the Karnataka State Cancer Fact Sheet, which presents the epidemiological profile and pattern of cancer and provides a brief description of the registry, cancer incidence and cumulative risk, leading sites of cancer, and the clinical extent of disease. The average annual number of cancer cases registered by Karnataka Population Based Cancer Registry (PBCR) was 9,683.

The incidence of cancer cases in children belonging to the 0-19 age group was higher as compared to the 0-14 group, in both boys and girls. One out of every seven men and one out of every six men had a possibility of developing cancer in the age group 0-74 years. Cancer of lung (10 per cent), stomach (6.9 per cent), prostate (6.4 per cent), oesophagus (5.4 per cent) and liver (4.3 per cent) were the most common cancer-affected organs among men. Cancer of breast (27.9 per cent), cervix uteri (12.0 per cent), ovary (6.4 per cent), mouth (3.8 per cent), and corpus uteri (3.8 per cent) were the most common cancer spots among women.

Data shows that Cancer of breast, cervix uteri, ovary, mouth, and corpus uteri are most common among women

The proportion of cancers associated with tobacco use in men was 33.4 per cent and 14.2 per cent in women. The highest proportion of distant metastasis at presentation was seen in patients with lung cancer (45 per cent in en and 55 per cent in women).

> **In Bengaluru, lung, stomach, oesophagus and prostate cancers are predominant in men. In Karnataka, annually, on an average 1% increase in cases in both male and female is observed by PBCR**
>
> –Dr Ramchandra, KMIO

The health professionals at Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology (KMIO) pointed out that based on the current trend, new cancer cases are likely to increase to 97,130 cases by 2025 — a 11.5% increase from the incidence of 85,968 cases in 2020. The projected incidence of cancer cases in 2025 in women is 51,437, a 11.6 per cent increase compared to the incidence of 45,465 in 2020. In men, the rise in projected incidence is 45,693, a 11.4 per cent increase compared to the incidence of 40,503 in 2020.

KMIO Director, Dr Ramchandra said, "In Bengaluru, lung, stomach, oesophagus and prostate cancers are predominant in men. In females, breast, cervix, ovation, corpus uteri are leading cancer spots. In Karnataka, annually, on an average 1 per cent increase in cases in both male and female is observed by PBCR Bengaluru. The overall sedentary type of lifestyle has led to an increase in cases. Overall, six types of cancer -- rectal, pancreas, gallbladder, kidneys, uterine and myeloma are related to obesity. Strengthening the government health system is important."

Man steals police jeep, goes on 112 km joyride

A man, who stole a jeep from a police station in Dharwad district and went on a long joyride to fulfil his long-pending dream, has been arrested, police said on Thursday.

The accused was identified as Nagappa Y. Hadapad, 45, a resident of Annigeri Town and working as a driver. He nursed a dream of driving a police jeep for many years. As a truck driver, he had travelled to all parts of the state as well as neighbouring states. But, his dream of going on a long ride in a police jeep remained unfulfilled.

Hadapad used to see the police jeep parked in the premises of Annigeri police station whenever he passed there. Early on Wednesday, he walked in and found that not only was the vehicle lying unlocked, its ignition key was also in place.

He thought this was the right time to fulfil his dream and drove away the police jeep as Inspector L.K. Julakatti had gone home after duty, and the two policemen on duty had dozed off.

He drove the jeep for 112 km till Motebennur near Byadagi town and then parked it by the roadside and fell asleep.

The local residents observed the stationary vehicle, suspected foul play and informed local Byadagi police. The police rushed to the spot and detained Hadapad. Annigeri police were also informed and the jeep was handed over to them later.

Police suspect the accused is mentally disturbed and it is his first crime. A case has been registered and the accused sent to judicial custody. **–IANS**

Lavelle Road gets favourite dog back

Activists, residents rescue the animal, who was relocated by Airlines Hotel staff

Shreyashi Mukherjee
mybangaloremirror
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Canines are a man's best friend, but there have been many incidents where these faithful friends are treated very badly. In a shocking incident, a dog was relocated from Lavelle Road to Mysore Road, so that it doesn't find its way back. A group of dog lovers joined hands and formed teams to ensure that the dog was found in a record time.

The members of Cubbon Park Canine Squad (CPCS), along with residents of the area, jointly rescued Chikoo, a dog who had been staying near Airlines Hotel, Lavelle Road for the past few years.

A staff of the Airlines Hotel had captured Chikoo and dumped him on Mysore Road so that he could not enter the premises again. Deepika Medappa, a member of CPCS, said, "He was never a trouble to anyone. However, the staff of Airlines Hotel believed that recently the dog was jumping on children and stated that in case something happened it would not be good for them. However, relocating a dog is not the solution because it is illegal."

As soon as one of the CPCS volunteers realised that Chikoo was not in his usual place, the search began. "We all made a poster within 15 minutes. All the people who knew Chikoo started a rally and finally we were able to bring Chikoo back in the evening," said Deepika.

Chikoo was adored by every Lavelle Road resident and Airlines Hotel customer

A complaint had been filed in Cubbon Park police station as well as with the BBMP. The officials from BBMP Animal Husbandry department visited the hotel and warned them against repeating such an act. "People do not know about the laws about dog protection. Unless the laws are made clear to everyone, the situation will not improve," said the trustee of CJ Memorial Trust, who is also a member of CPCS. CUPA (Compassion Unlimited plus Action), an animal shelter, too filed a police complaint in connection with the issue.

According to the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, it is illegal to relocate stray dogs from their territory. "When the dog is not in its known environment, it is likely to get chased by other dogs and have more chances of getting injured. If someone has any problem with the dog entering their premises, they can just bar the dog from entering," said Deepika.

Chikoo was adored by everyone staying in the locality. For the residents, he had become an extended member of their family and they would go far and wide to ensure that all the care and love was given to him. "Chikoo is such a sweet dog. He has become a part and parcel of everyone who lives here or comes to the hotel," said a member of CPCS.

Last year, almost eight months ago, Chikoo had met with a terrible accident. While parking a car, someone had run over Chikoo and crushed his head. His eye was also injured. However, he was rushed to a veterinary hospital immediately and he recovered soon.

Less than 5% positivity rate? Get back to school

As of now, schools are completely open in 11 states; Centre says state govts can take call on this

Students of Delhi Public School (DPS) watch a covid protocol video during a class as the West Bengal Government reopens schools for class 8 to 12, in Kolkata on Thursday

NATION

The Centre on Thursday said the districts having less than five percent Covid positivity rate can move in the direction of reopening schools but it is up to the state governments to take a call in this regard.

Noting that the pandemic situation has improved and there has been a consistent decline in new covid-19 cases, Niti Ayog Member (Health) VK Paul said we have more confidence now to go in the direction of reopening schools.

Ministry of Education (MoE) officials said schools are completely open in 11 states while they are reopened for mostly higher classes in 16 states. They said following the "extensive" vaccination coverage, the ministry had in December revised the guidelines issued to state for reopening of schools. Schools continue to remain completely closed in nine states, officials said, adding that all the states have vaccinated at least 95 per cent of the teaching and non-teaching staff, while few states have achieved 100 percent vaccination coverage for them.

"The pandemic situation has improved. There are states and districts of concern, but overall there is a contraction in the spread of infection which is heartening. There are 268 districts where the positivity is below 5 per cent. And clearly, these districts can move in the direction of non-covid care and also in the direction of other economic activities as well as school reopening," Paul said at a press conference.

"The decision for reopening schools rests with the state governments, by the district administrations. But the broad issue is that we would still like to ensure that schools are opened and schools are run, according to protocols, standard operating procedures because we are still in the midst of the pandemic.

"By implementing SOPs, we can ensure safe conduct of schools, make physical learning possible, school activities, which lead to interaction development, possible. Teachers can feel safe because now in any case, as they are vaccine protected. So following the SOPs is the essence of the guidelines that the Union government has been issuing. And we believe these guidelines are adapted, these are considered directly by the state governments and decisions are taken for opening the schools," he added.

Noting that the nation is concerned that there have been a significant learning loss, Paul said schools should be open at the "earliest opportunity but also appropriate time".

"It (school closure) had other imperatives in the absence of vaccine -- the teachers were not protected, and so on and so forth... We have more confidence to go in the direction of reopening schools but according to the SOPs. We are very happy to share with you the paradigm within which, in a scientific evidence, schools can be opened safely," Paul said. Sweety Changsan, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Education said after taking into account the extensive vaccination coverage, the ministry had issued revised guidelines to states in December last year and the decision to ask for parents consent was left with states.

"Also, the revised guidelines talked about congregations and gatherings which were earlier banned in schools. According to the new advisory, schools may celebrate events and hold gatherings according to SOPs issued by the state. States and UTs have also been advised to evolve SOPs for safe conduct for group activities and events," she added.

Further, the revised guidelines issued by the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education, suggested preparing bridge courses and implementing them in classrooms.

> **"By implementing SOPs, we can ensure safe conduct of schools, make physical learning possible** – VK Paul, Niti Ayog

"Once school reopens, the grade-related syllabus should be undertaken only after the bridge course is completed, so that students can adjust to the changed school environment and do not feel the stress or being left out, especially students who did not have access to alternate means of education," the guidelines had said.

"In the modified guidelines, the government has also suggested identification of children based on their learning levels so that teachers can focus on students who need additional support," it added. **– PTI**

How temple tanks are vanishing

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

INTACH Bengaluru chapter is now architecturally documenting the Kalyanis, preparing a report as to what measures can be adopted to revive or rejuvenate these tanks.

"We have been documenting Kalyanis over the last few months in and around the city," Meera Iyer, convenor, INTACH, Bengaluru, told BM. "In the city, around 40-50% Kalyanis are non-functional. We also found Kalayanis that are functioning; some were covered up. Some are new. Many are old like the ones at Devanahalli Fort and Chikkajala Fort on the outskirts. There is one Kalyani at Sri Anjaneyaswamy Temple in Devanahalli. In the city, two are at Halasuru attached to the two temples - Subramanyaswamy Temple and Halasuru Someshwara Temple. Subra-manyaswamy Temple Kalyani is a nice one while the Halasuru Someshwara Temple Kalyani is under litigation; it's been cleared and not accessible, the persons in charge said. There is a small Kalyani in Tulasi Thota in Chikka Lalbagh which is functional, but tiny. There is also one Kalyani at Yediyur Lake. We have architecturally documented the Sri Dakshinamukha Nandi Teertha Kalyani in Malleswaram which has its own temple; there is a Kalyani at Sankey Tank as well," Iyer further explained.

The forgotten Kalyanis

INTACH is yet to document the Kalyani near Jakkur's Allasandra flyover: "When we went there, it was a mess; we couldn't approach it. It's partly filled with rubbish and vegetation," said Iyer. There is one at Gottigere next to Bannerghatta Road at a small temple covered up by the civic authorities there, according to sources. Another activist said it is unfair the government is ignoring Kalyanis, without maintenance.

"Government departments, both the Muzarai and/or the Endowment departments, have to form teams and obtain a list of all temple Kalyanis and rejuvenate them like they do for the lakes. One would visit the temple for 'archana', and without a 'theertha', how can it be called a complete spiritual experience?" asked Arun Prasad.

Prasad recently visited Sampangiram Nagar Temple and found there was a proper Kalyani in the premises, which was in the process of being covered by stone slabs. When he inquired about it, the persons concerned told him it was the decision of the management.

Some Kalyanis maintained by the BBMP are also being covered up. "Many Kalyanis in Bengaluru temples are non-existent. They are either covered up and used as parking spaces and others altered into community spaces, which is sad," Prasad added.

'Only buses that have completed checks are allowed to run'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The BMTC has initiated an internal probe. A team comprising eight officers from BMTC and two engineers from Ashok Leyland will inspect the vehicles. Around 186 Ashok Leyland buses plying in Bengaluru were recalled and inspected. "The incident is of utmost concern for us. Only buses that have completed the checks are being allowed to run now," said BMTC managing director V Anbu Kumar.

In two to three days, a detailed report will be available with BMTC and the exact cause of the incidents is likely to be revealed. BMTC further clarified that this was not an issue of maintenance. "We are running 6,000 buses — servicing 10-11 lakh km and 50,000 trips daily. We have funds for maintenance, especially with some services called off. If it was a maintenance issue, it would have been replicated in all BMTC buses," said Kumar.

"We called zonal engineers of Ashok Leyland and conducted a joint inspection. The cabin was completely burnt making it difficult for us to come to conclusions. However, the battery was intact. This could be an issue with the starter. Even if there was a fire breakout, the driver could have turned off the battery cut-off switch. The driver has not done that; the incident could have been avoided," said a BMTC official. "There have been incidents of bus fires dating back to 2005, but nowhere the exact cause was ascertained," he added.

"All our buses are equipped with mandatory fire extinguishers. The question is why our drivers didn't use them. We have directed to provide training/refresher courses in using fire extinguishers to drivers sooner," Kumar explained. According to Kumar, BMTC has scrapped 400 buses. "The buses in question have completed just 4-5 lakh km; most buses can run up to 10 lakh km. These mid-vehicle segment buses were purchased in 2014. The first bus has run just 5 lakh km while the second, only 4 lakh km. We have buses that have run up to 9 lakh km — they are not catching fire," added Kumar. "In multimodal mobility, BMTC plays a key role in last mile connectivity; a safe fleet is essential that's feasible with better operational efficiency where private operator partnership can be utilised," said Vishnu Prasad, a BMTC service user.

"This shows gross negligence of the state public transport system that does not compensate for the losses suffered by BMTC. The BMTC is catering to 45 lakh passengers which is 10 times more than Metro; it is most accessible and affordable, providing service to every corner of Bengaluru. If more people use BMTC buses over private transport, we could avoid traffic congestion. Why are costlier solutions given priority? BMTC must be given funds to replace its ageing fleet. If there is an addition of another 6,000 buses, it could resolve issues," said Kathyayini Chamaraj, executive trustee at CIVIC. "Public or private transport, safety of passengers is paramount. Citizens would like to see what measures are taken to avoid further incidents," said Srinivas Alavilli of Janaagraha.

HEALTH TIP: Hot sweaty palms can be down to stress, or a sign of an overactive thyroid, which tends to speed up your metabolism

Calcium is vital for healthy bones and teeth, but a supplement is only advised if you are vegan, eat very little dairy or have osteoporosis

BEST OF
DR MAHINDER WATSA

The finest responses of Dr Watsa are being republished in this column as a tribute to him.

1 I am a 33-year-old. I am diabetic but have the condition under control. However, for about a month now, I have been experiencing a severe burning sensation on the foreskin after I pass urine. Sometimes, I also get a red rash around the area. What should I do?
It's possible that some urine gets left behind on the foreskin, and if this area is not cleaned properly, it would cause the symptoms that you mention. Maintain proper hygiene and wash the area well with soap and water. Apply Candid-B cream for a few days, twice a day. If you do not see any improvement, consult your doctor.

2 I am a 42-year-old and suffer from diabetes which is under control. For the last few months, I have observed a white discharge on the inside of the foreskin. My foreskin is also cracked. Are there medicines that can help?
The white discharge you see comes naturally from under the skin. Please ensure that you slip back your foreskin and gently wash the area with soap and water. Dry the area and apply Betnovate-N cream twice a day for a few days. Visit your doctor if there is no improvement.

3 I am 24 years old and want to know if it is safer to wear two condoms at a time?
A single condom, worn correctly, is much safer than using two since this increases the tendency to tear or slip off.

4 I am 25 years old and am unmarried. What I can do to last longer in bed while having sex. Also, my penis is four-inches-long. Is it long enough to have sex?
Do Kegel exercise (read up on them online) daily. Your penis length is adequate for having sex, provided you've learnt foreplay techniques.

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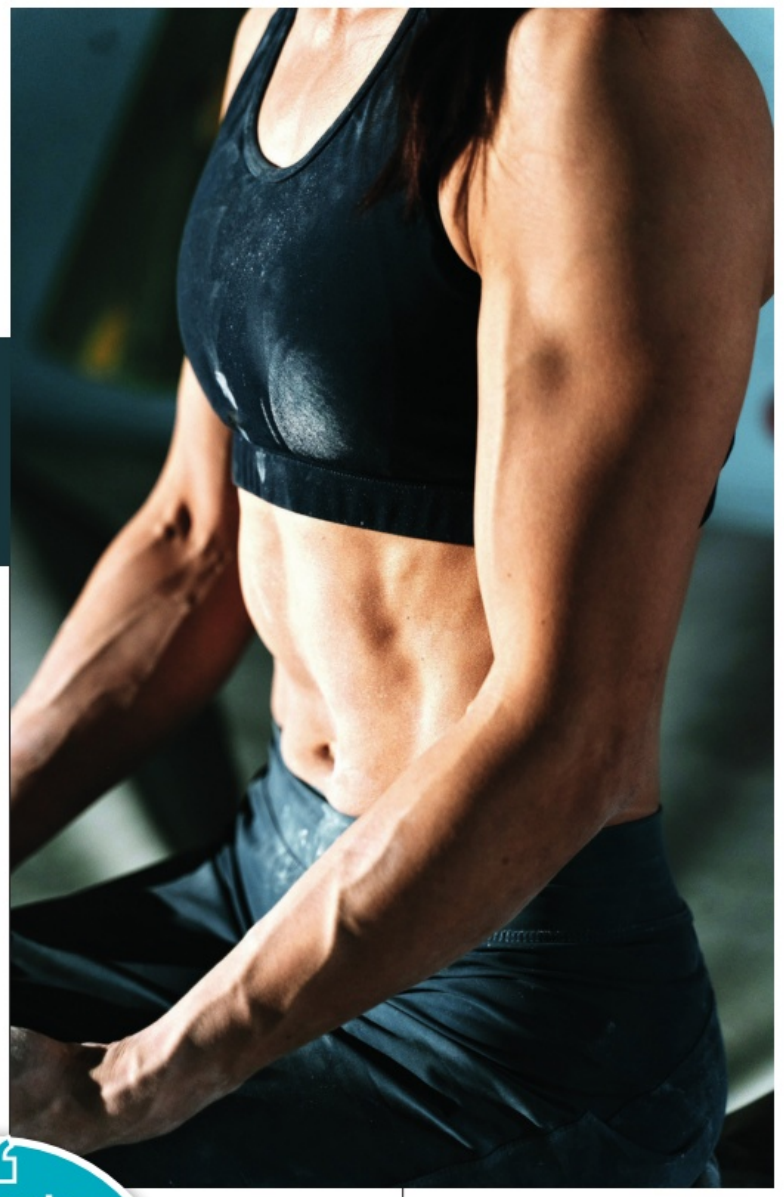
AGEING GRACEFULLY

50-year-old muscles may not grow big like they used to, but one must not stop exercising as one ages



There is perhaps no better way to see the absolute pinnacle of human athletic abilities than by watching the Olympics. But at the Winter Games this year - and at almost all professional sporting events - you rarely see a competitor over 40 years old and almost never see a single athlete over 50. This is because with every additional year spent on Earth, bodies age and muscles don't respond to exercise the same as they used to.

I lead a team of scientists who study the health benefits of exercise, strength training and diet in older people. We investigate how older people respond to exercise and try to understand the underlying biological mechanisms that cause muscles to increase in size and strength after resistance or strength training.

Old and young people build muscle in the same way. But as you age, many of the biological processes that turn exercise into muscle become less effective. This makes it harder for older people to build strength but also makes it that much more important for everyone to continue exercising as they age.

How the body builds muscle

The exercise I study is the type that makes you stronger. Strength training includes exercises like pushups and situps, but also weightlifting and resistance training using bands or workout machines.

When you do strength training, over time, exercises that at first felt difficult become easier as your muscles increase in strength and size - a process called hypertrophy. Bigger muscles simply have larger muscle fibers and cells, and this allows you to lift heavier weights. As you keep working out, you can continue to increase the difficulty or weight of the exercises as your muscles get bigger and stronger.

It is easy to see that working out makes muscles bigger, but what is actually happening to the cells as muscles increase in strength and size in response to resistance training?

Any time you move your body, you are doing so by shortening and pulling with your muscles - a process called contraction. This is how muscles spend energy to generate force and produce movement. Every time you contract a muscle - especially when you have to work hard to do the contraction, like when lifting weights - the action causes changes to the levels of various chemicals in your muscles. In addition to the chemical changes, there are also specialized receptors on the surface of muscle cells that detect when you move a muscle, generate force or otherwise alter the biochemical machinery within a muscle.

In a healthy young person, when these chemical and mechanical sensory systems detect muscle movement, they turn on a number of specialized chemical pathways within the muscle. These pathways in turn trigger the production of more proteins that get incorporated into the muscle fibers and cause the muscle to increase in size.

> **"The basic biology of young or old is more or less the same. So what changes in a person's muscles as they age?"**

These cellular pathways also turn on genes that code for specific proteins in cells that make up the muscles contracting machinery. This activation of gene expression is a longer-term process, with genes being turned on or off for several hours after a single session of resistance exercise.

The overall effect of these many exercise-induced changes is to cause your muscles to get bigger.

How older muscles change

While the basic biology of all people, young or old, is more or less the same, something is behind the lack of senior citizens in professional sports. So what changes in a person's muscles as they age?

What my colleagues and I have found in our research is that in young muscle, a little bit of exercise produces a strong signal for the many processes that trigger muscle growth. In older people's muscles, by comparison, the signal telling muscles to grow is much weaker for a given amount of exercise. These changes begin to occur when a person reaches around 50 years old and become more pronounced as time goes on.

In a recent study, we wanted to see if the changes in signaling were accompanied by any changes in which genes - and how many of them - respond to exercise. Using a technique that allowed us to measure changes in thousands of genes in response to resistance exercise, we found that when younger men exercise, there are changes in the expression of more than 150 genes. When we looked at older men, we found changes in the expression of only 42 genes. This difference in gene expression seems to explain, at least partly, the more visible variation between how young and old people respond to strength training.

Staying fit as you age

When you put together all of the various molecular differences in how older adults respond to strength training, the result is that older people do not gain muscle mass as well as young people.

But this reality should not discourage older people from exercising. If anything, it should encourage you to exercise more as you age.

Exercise still remains one of the most important activities older adults can do for their health. The work my colleagues and I have done clearly shows that although the responses to training lessen with age, they are by no means reduced to zero.

We showed that older adults with mobility problems who participate in a regular program of aerobic and resistance exercise can reduce their risk of becoming disabled by about 20%. We also found a similar 20% reduction in risk of becoming disabled among people who are already physically frail if they did the same workout program.

While younger people may get stronger and build bigger muscles much faster than their older counterparts, older people still get incredibly valuable health benefits from exercise, including improved strength, physical function and reduced disability. So the next time you are sweating during a workout session, remember that you are building muscle strength that is vital to maintaining mobility and good health throughout a long life.

*— **Roger Fielding**, Tufts University, The Conversation via AP*

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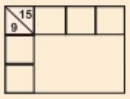
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

There is a 6 digit-number consisting of the digits: 1, 1, 2, 2, 3, and 3. The 1 's are one digit apart, the 2's are two digits apart & the 3's are three digits apart. What is the number?

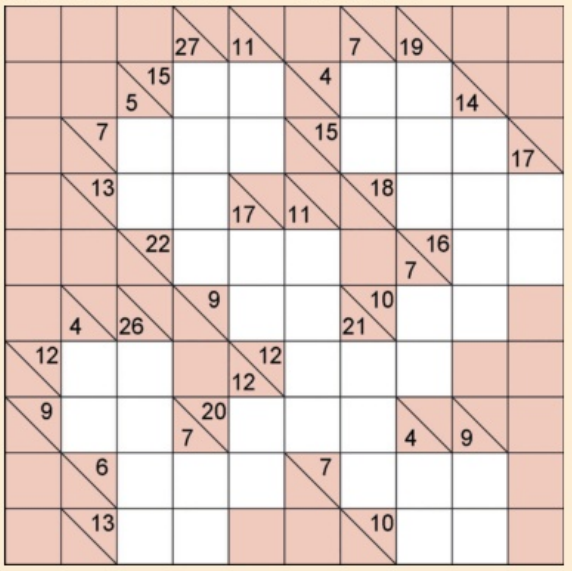
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

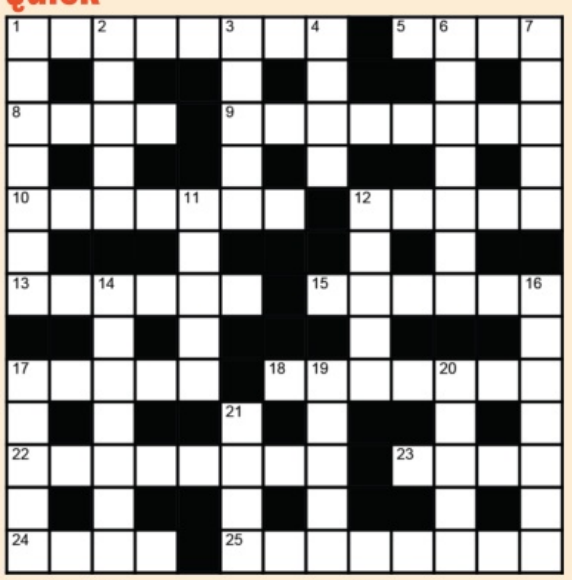


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Highjacker's victims? (8)
5 Sickly sentimental (4)
8 Common metal (4)
9 Puts out again (8)
10 Indirect, angled (7)
12 Joined up with (5)
13 River (6)
15 Pork curry (6)
17 Force back (5)
18 Arabian Nights hero (3,4)
22 Heavy club (8)
23 Dull pain (4)
24 Requirement (4)
25 Ex-Aussie wicket keeper (3,5)

DOWN

1 Monstrous (7)
2 Frown (5)
3 Renowned percussionist Trilok ____ (5)
4 Cut of beef (4)
6 Injured (7)
7 Relaxed (5)
11 Cower (5)
12 Guru in our country (5)
14 Ecstatic delight (7)
16 Figurative language (7)
17 Batman's sidekick (5)
19 A coarse cloth (5)
20 Capital of Ghana (5)
21 Persian fairy (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: L EQUALS H

N TUROPK FO N HNR GLP SRPGO HPKU QLNR LU QLFRSO XPD PDBLQ QP.

Linemaro

You have such a dazzling smile that I could see it from a mile away

Mindchow

The longer your worry list, the smaller your god

Joke of the day

Two wrongs don't make a right, but three lefts do

Loop

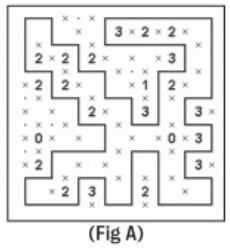
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

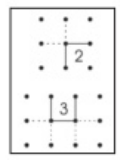
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

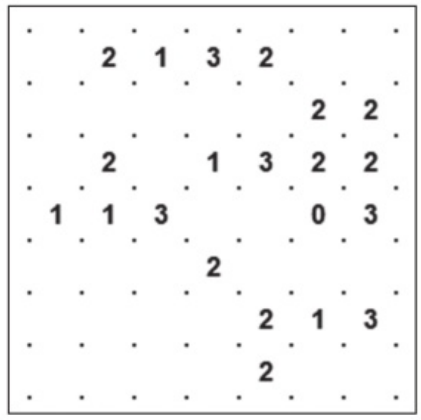
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



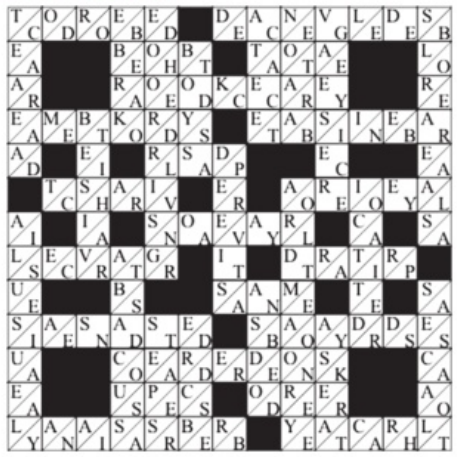
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



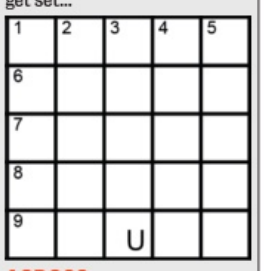
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Aster; 6 Hired; 7 Tiara; 8 A ruse; 9 Ug age

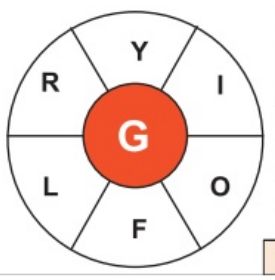
DOWN

1 Hugs R; 2 Air at; 3 A due I; 4 Grate; 5 Saree

Mensapuzzle

Which letter completes this puzzle?

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

07 Average; **08** Good; **10** Outstanding

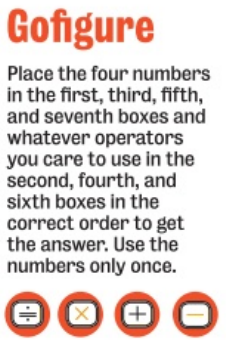
SudokuChallenge

	9			5			1	
5		8				2		9
			9		4			
	7	3	2		8	4	6	
1								3
	5	4	6		9	1	2	
			4		1			
6		9				7		8
	2			7			9	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Bedspread is longer. 2. Stripes on hockey stick are different. 3. Pillow is moved. 4. Blinds are different. 5. Fingers are not showing. 6. Window is larger.

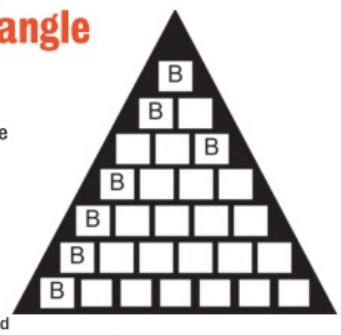
Riddler

In this teaser, you have to find the odd ones out in the groups of words. BUT WAIT! There's a catch. Each group of words has TWO words which do not belong. Can you find them both?

1. Dodge–Ford–Lincoln–Hoover 2. King–Earl–Knight–Bishop
3. Yellow–Green–Dead–Black

Alpha triangle

1 Type of vitamin
2 Two, prefix
3 Tease
4 Whole milk cheese
5 Pickle juice
6 More scrawny
7 Festive blaze



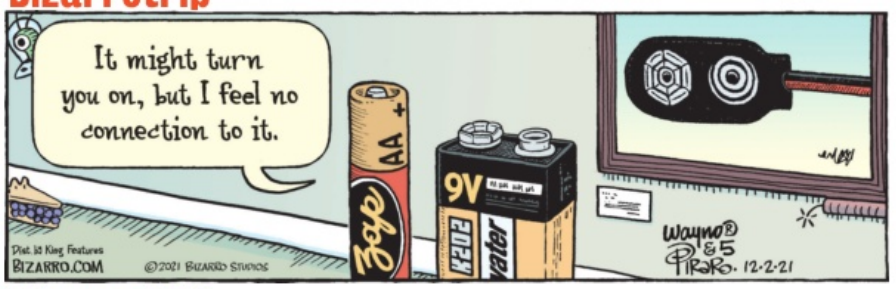
Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

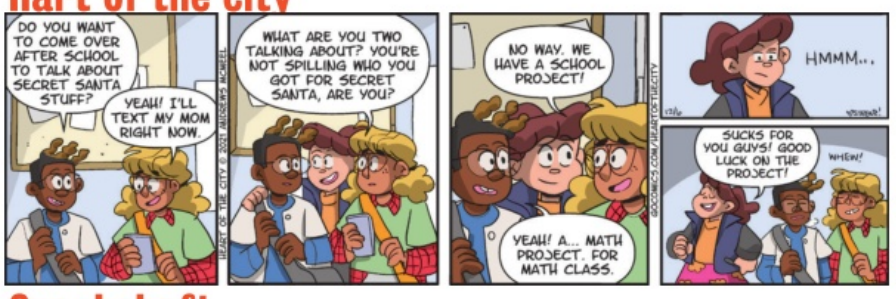
Redeye by Mel Casson

Bizarrotrip



Diamond Lil

Hart of the city



Crankshaft

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may be busy in a social get together; you may also meet some old friends and your network might get stronger, which may give you benefits in the near future the on your work front. Natives related to export and import, glamour and artefacts may perform better. Students are likely to perform better today. Love birds may enjoy their happy moments.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you may have good support from your family members. Your family business may expand, which will increase the social status of your family. You may also plan to expand your family in terms of a new child, which may improve bonding between family members. Students may apply for scholarships for their higher studies.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may be more spiritual; your luck may be with you. You may expect good gain in your past investments. Bonding with the boss is likely to improve, which may benefit you in terms of promotions. You may also hear some good news from your sibling. You are advised to control speaking harshly in love and personal life; it may affect your personal and love life.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may be a victim of sleeplessness, which may make you lazy. You may also become careless; it may affect your inner strength negatively. You are likely to be nervous at work, which may affect your running project. You are advised to avoid making investments in dead stuff. You are advised to avoid spicy food; you may expect digestion issues. You should avoid rash driving.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you are blessed by the moon. Your internal strength may help you to make some difficult decisions at work. Disputes with the partner are likely to be resolved. Singles may expect you to find a good match with the help of relatives or friends; you may also have some investments in your business from outside resources.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you are blessed by the moon. Your inner strength may make you confident, which will reflect your way of working. You are likely to get good news in legal matters. Your money, which was stuck, may get recovered today. This may increase your savings. Kids' health may be good. In domestic life, you should try to avoid unnecessary arguments.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, with the help of blessings, you may expect to get some gains in your past investments. You may plan to renovate the house or office. You may invest in some intellectual assets like books to update your knowledge. You may also plan for higher studies. Singles may get a soulmate in the same field. Natives related to research, education and agricultural work may perform better.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may feel unhappy. You may be a victim of arrogance. This may affect your personal and professional life. You are likely to be under pressure. Some detachment from your responsibilities may be noticed in your nature. You are likely to be impatient at work. You are advised to take care of your parents. You should also postpone some important decisions related to work.

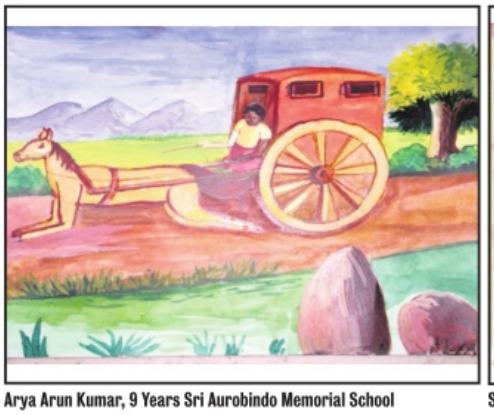
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you may be happy. Property-related issues with the siblings may settle down. You may meet an influential person, who may help you grow at work. Your professional contacts may help you to grow your business. You are advised to follow your intuition before making investments in fixed assets; they might be dead. Work-related short trips are expected.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you may be busy with family and friends. You will plan to go for an outing or some adventure trips with the family or friends. Kids' health may make you upset. You are blessed by the moon; it may help you to find your ways out to get success. Your savings may increase, which may increase your financial health.

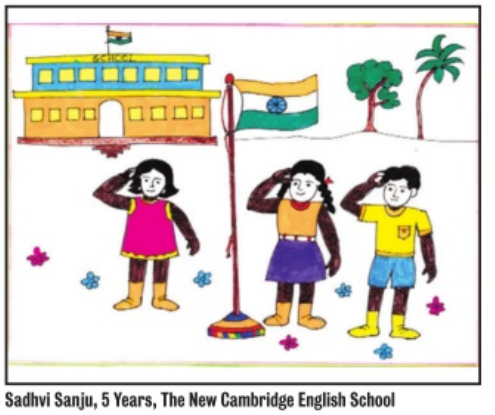
Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you may be full of vitality and full of inner strength. You may make good plans for the growth of your family business. You may be blessed by elders, so you might be able to implement new plans efficiently with the help of your team. Your wisdom may help you to make some good decisions, which may increase your social status.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you may face health issues. Last night's lack of sleep may make you mentally tired. You may not focus on your work. You may feel lazy, which may affect your commitments. It is advised to avoid rash driving and adventure trips. You are also advised to avoid spending money on worthless stuff.

KIDZONE



Arya Arun Kumar, 9 Years Sri Aurobindo Memorial School



Sadhvi Sanju, 5 Years, The New Cambridge English School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

RIDDLER 1. Hoover not belong as it's the only one which is not a car manufacturer. Dodge does not belong as it's the only one which is not the last name of a President of USA.
2. Bishop does not belong as it's the only one which is not a class of nobility. Earl does not belong as it's the only one which is not a Chess piece.
3. Dead does not belong as it's the only one which is not a color. Green does not belong as it's the only one which is not the name of a sea.

BULL'S EYE
flog, frog, glirl, glory, golf, gory, gyro, orgy

SOLVE IN 1M
231213 & 312132

FAST FIVE

S	T	A	R	E
H	I	D	E	R
R	A	I	T	A
U	R	E	A	S
G	A	U	G	E

STRIKE OUT

L	A	I	S	S	E	R	■	Y	A	C	H	T	■	■
A	■	U	P	S	■	D	E	E	■	O	■	■	■	■
U	■	C	A	R	E	N	S	■	A	C	H	E	■	■
S	E	N	A	T	E	B	O	A	R	D	S	■	■	■
U	■	B	■	S	A	M	■	E	■	A	■	■	■	■
S	C	R	A	G	■	I	■	D	R	I	P	■	■	■
A	■	A	■	N	A	V	A	L	■	C	■	S	■	■
D	■	I	■	L	S	D	■	E	■	E	■	■	■	■
E	M	B	O	D	Y	■	E	A	S	I	E	R	■	■
R	■	R	O	O	K	E	R	Y	■	R	■	■	■	■
C	O	O	E	D	■	D	A	N	G	L	E	S	■	■
A	■	B	O	B	■	T	O	E	■	O	■	■	■	■
L	A	I	S	S	E	R	■	Y	A	C	H	T	■	■

QUICK

■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

MENSA PUZZLE
V. Starting at the top left, and moving clockwise in a spiral towards the centre, letters move through the alphabet in steps of 5.

QUOTE UNCODE
A censor is a man who knows more than he thinks you ought to.

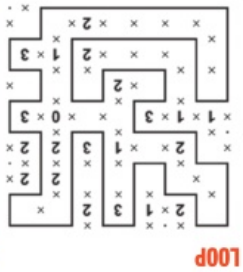
SUDOKU

7	9	6	3	5	2	8	1	4
5	4	8	1	6	7	2	3	9
2	3	1	9	8	4	5	7	6
9	7	3	2	1	8	4	6	5
1	6	2	7	4	5	9	8	3
8	5	4	6	3	9	1	2	7
3	8	7	4	9	1	6	5	2
6	1	9	5	2	3	7	4	8
4	2	5	8	7	6	3	9	1

ALPHA TRIANGLE
8, 8i, Rib, Brie, Brine, Boiler, Bonfire.

GO FIGURE
Easy
4 − 7 − 2 + 8 = 3
Medium
7 x 3 − 9 − 1 = 11
Hard
5 x 9 + 9 / 2 = 27

LOOP



KAKURO

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'You'll question things you were forced to believe in'

Bhumi Pednekar talks about busting stereotypes with her latest film Badhaai Do

With just about a week to go for Junglee Pictures' 'Badhaai Do' to hit the silver screens, actress Bhumi Pednekar, who is having a theatrical release after almost two years, is both nervous and excited. In an exclusive conversation with ETimes, Bhumi says she is happy to have a theatrical release (after the lockdown), starting with 'Badhaai Do'. "It's such a special film, and it's an important film for my career. I am full of gratitude that the script came my way," she says.

'Badhaai Do' is a spiritual sequel to Junglee Pictures' 'Badhaai Ho' from 2018. Featuring Rajkummar Rao and Bhumi Pednekar in unique roles, the film depicts a marriage of convenience. The story is packed with elements of love, romance, comedy and offers a totally fresh perspective on the LGBTQI community with a promise to be fun and thought provoking. Which is what prompted Bhumi to latch onto the film.

When asked what about the film appealed to her the most, Bhumi says, "It definitely has to be the script. I was completely blown away by what I had heard. There were many stories about LGBTQI community that had come in the past, but there was nothing that was so pitch-perfect. Yes, it is a comedy, yes the film is about breaking stereotypes. But there is nothing that happens at the cost of the character. The film is written very sensitively. It makes you laugh, it makes you cry. You'll have a smile on your face through and through. You question so many things that you were forced to believe in. There are so many things that the society taught you that this is the only way of living. There are so many times that you laugh in the film, but you feel like, 'Oh why am I laughing at this? Should I be laughing at this?' We normalise so many things that shouldn't be normalised because of years of social convention and this film challenges those things. I loved the way both the characters were written. I loved the way that they were just treated as two regular human beings who are finding love, who will do what it takes to lead the lives that they want. To lead the life of freedom they do not have. And sexual identity is not the only thing about them. For me that was beautiful. That's why I just latched on to the film." Bhumi and Rajkummar play Suman and Shardul - a couple in a lavender marriage. Bhumi says it is much more than that. "At no point are we celebrating a lavender marriage, at no point are we questioning a lavender marriage. That is for the audiences to decide," she says.

—ETimes

Sara shows the way

Sara Ali Khan had a fun AMA (Ask Me Anything) session with her followers on Instagram today. The actress has had an inspirational weight loss journey and a netizen asked Sara for a weight loss tip. "Do I really have to stop eating pizza to lose weight?" a user asked to which Sara replied, "No you can have some but not Sara. And Definitely not itna Sara." Another user asked Sara to share some skin care tips and the actress revealed, "Vitamin D and meditate".

Previously, the actress had slammed a netizen who trolled her shayaris. An internet user asked Sara during the AMA session, "Why are your shayris so bad?" Sara penned a shayari in response and wrote, "So I drive positive people like you mad, And because rude judgements don't make me sad, And I am who I am inspite efforts of mom and dad, As it's a result of all the laughter and fun I had, And not to mention after that I feel glad, I hope you don't actually dislike my shayari, and if you do then just a tad..."

Last seen in 'Atrangi Re', Sara Ali Khan recently wrapped Laxman Utekar's next movie. The actress is paired opposite Vicky Kaushal in this entertainer. The team has shot for this yet-untitled movie in Indore. The actress is also rumoured to have signed up for Vicky's 'The Immortal Ashwatthama'.

—ETimes

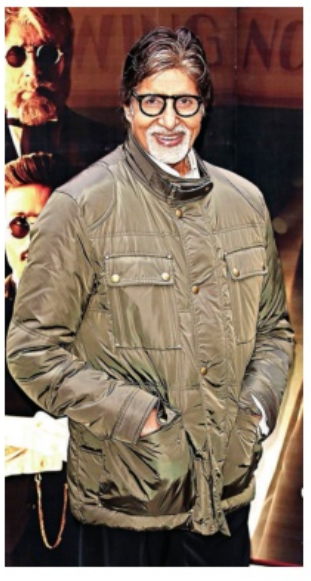
Big B sells Gulmohar Park family home for ₹23 crore

Bollywood actor Amitabh Bachchan has sold his Gulmohar Park property in South Delhi for around Rs 23 crore, said three people aware of the deal.

Bachchan's parents, Teji Bachchan and Harivansh Rai Bachchan, used to live in the bungalow.

The property has been bought by Avni Bader, CEO of Nezone group of companies, who lives close by and has known the Bachchan family for more than 35 years.

—ET Online

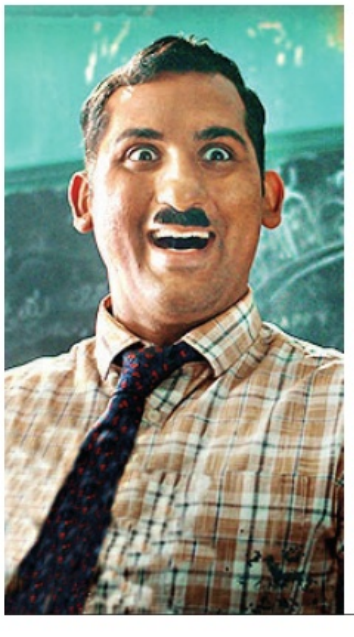


Jacqueline is up for emotional horror thriller

Actor Jacqueline Fernandez is all set to collaborate with 'Thalaivii' director AL Vijay as she will next star in his upcoming emotional horror thriller, as per reports. According to media reports, Jacqueline will be exploring the new genre with a character like never before. As the actress has reportedly begun the prep work for the yet-untitled project, it's believed that the shooting will take place in London, starting from March. Following a start to finish schedule, it's likely to wrap up within 2 months, mostly by April-end.

Jacqueline recently announced the wrap of her next 'Ram Setu' co-starring Akshay Kumar and Nushrrat Bharuccha. Dropping interesting BTS snaps from the last day on sets, she had shared, "#ramsetu what an adventure it was!!! Thank you team for the love you've poured into this film!!"

—ETimes



Danish Sait on bond with Puneeth

Actor-comedian Danish Sait says Puneeth Rajkumar had thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated his Kannada film "One Cut Two Cut", which was backed by the late superstar's production house. The comedy-adventure film is directed by Vamsidhar Bhogaraju and produced by Puneeth's wife Ashwini Puneeth Rajkumar and Gurudatha Talwar under the PRK Productions banner.

"One Cut Two Cut" happens to be the one of the last production projects that was kick-started by the actor-producer, who passed away last year in October. Sait shared that Puneeth had watched the film last year and was quite happy with the way it had turned out.

"Mr Puneeth was extremely cognisant of the fact that there are two kinds of cinema, one that needs the big stars to draw in the crowds and then these boutique high-concept, which are small and tiny. And a platform like Amazon Prime Video can (help) reach out to people from across the world," Sait told PTI.

"When he saw the film, he enjoyed it, laughed. He was very appreciative of the crew and the team and whatever we had done," he added. The 33-year-old actor, known for Kannada films like "Humble Politician Nograj", "French Biriyani" and Hindi web series "Afsos", also said that Puneeth suggested they begin work on their next project together.

"His advice to us was 'Alright, this is done. Now move on to the next film', which we are writing. We are hoping that we have PRK Productions show the same faith that they have shown in me and the team," he added. Speaking about the equation that Sait shared with Puneeth, he said, the superstar was more like a friend and mentor to him. "He had produced a film of mine ('French Biriyani') before this and we were talking about doing another film and we had this idea. For us PRK Productions is home, I wouldn't go anywhere else," he said.

"One Cut Two Cut" is a satire around an art and crafts teacher Gopi (Sait), whose first day at work throws up a unique challenge.

PTI